



To: Chairs, leaders and members of the Commerce Committee,

My name is Tim Backus, I am the President and CEO of the Har-Conn Chrome Company in West Hartford and a long time ACM member. We are not a manufacturing company, but we provide services that support aerospace component manufacturers around the world, most of which are in Connecticut.

I am writing in support of the following bills being considered in the upcoming legislative session.

- SB-854 AN ACT PROMOTING CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DEMAND FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS.
- SB-855 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF MANUFACTURING.
- SB-856 AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER MANUFACTURERS' WORKFORCE NEEDS WHEN EVALUATING PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

All three bills are crucial steps toward strengthening manufacturing in the state of Connecticut. The establishment of the Secretary of Manufacturing is especially important because it will provide organization and collaboration and will keep efforts focused on the issues that directly impact manufacturers.

The most important concern going forward should be educating the future workforce, and although there are some good programs available, they are often affected negatively by duplication and poor implementation. These bills will improve the effectiveness of programs designed to support this initiative.

There are also some good programs that support manufacturing growth in the state, such as loans and various grants, but they have been affected by taxation and regulations making some of them ineffective. There is nothing more frustrating than receiving a state loan or grant to help buy equipment and expand operations and working to meet requirements to hire a certain number of employees or maintain employment levels to qualify. Then you find out that the legislature is passing laws that add a new tax, new requirement or new regulation that prevents us from being able to keep those employees.

I look forward to the positive impact each one of these bills will make for all involved with manufacturing in the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Timothy K. Backus
President and CEO

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